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CIA-RDP81-00280R000200180044-9

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INFORMATION REPORT

PREPARED AND DISSEMINATED BY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY

HUNGARY

SUBJECT

Border Crossing Preventives/"New Iron Curtain"

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1. "The Hungarian foreign minister Mr. Horvath gave an interview to the press of Vienna in which he wishes to convince the Austrian public that the Communist regime in Hungary tries to be on good neighborly terms with Austria. One of the arguments was that at the beginning of May the Hungarian government ordered the dismantling of the Iron Curtain.
2. "The events look otherwise. From May until the recent declaration of the Foreign Minister the Iron Curtain was not demolished /about October 1956/. The wire-barrier disappeared only on some parts of the flatland. On the mountains, bushes and woods the wire-barrier remained intact. But even on the plains there are new measures and new devices to trap the refugees escaping toward freedom. Moreover on the flatlands too only the visible wire-barriers were demolished. The most dangerous mine barrage became just as treacherous an obstacle that gets in the way and stops the progress of demolishing as it was in the way of the running refugees. At first the Hungarian Red army sent troops for mine-dragging but the Red soldiers' zeal was in inverse ratio to the rising rate of the fatal detonations. For the ill-defined and poorly-marked border area separating the Reds from the West has produced a continually increasing mine-barrage. The sowers of the mines themselves are afraid to cross the area because no one among them knows for sure where the mines were originally placed.
3. "The Hungarian Army, part of the military power compelled and compiled in the Pact of Warsaw, does not have a natty look at all. The Hungarian soldiers all wear skimpy uniforms today. However lately it was observed by the border populations of Burgenland, Eastern part of Austria, that those soldiers who came to work on the dismantling of the wire-barrier, are more rugged than those who worked before. The border population has seen that the new workers in the ragged uniforms are herded by guards equipped with Tommy guns. However, they have seen that the ragged soldiers are not allowed to speak at all even between themselves. Now escapees explained that the Communist bosses transported so-called prisoner detachments to the Iron Curtain. The unfortunate members of these prisoner detachments got a long stick, which equipment they had to find to move the mines out with.
4. "In the recent days there were two attempts to break through the Iron Curtain which is said to be demolished. First there was an unknown man who fled with a truck. In the early morning he ran through the plain

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land where there was no visible Iron Curtain. But instead of the wire-barrier the Red border guards excavated a deep and wide ditch along the border. The radiator of the truck telescoped into the opposite wall of the ditch and when the man managed to get out of the driver's seat, the Communist border guards were there. Yet the man climbed over the deep ditch and ran, already on Austrian soil for freedom. He was 150 steps on the Austrian ground when the firing border guards cut him down with a series of shots coming from many guns. Then they skipped over the border and dragged the man back to the Hungarian territory. So the Iron Curtain killed-- after its dismantling.

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5. "The other attempt was more successful. Four young Hungarians, (Ernest Horvath [redacted] George Varga [redacted] Julius Pihary [redacted] and Joseph Kantor 20 years old) broke through the barrier of the border station with a speeding truck. The guards shot the truck that was coming without lights, but the youngsters also opened fire on the border guards and crashed the barrier and arrived in Vienna unharmed. It should be noted that these young men, educated by the Communists, were only seven or eight years old at the time of the Soviet 'liberation'.
6. "But that is only half the story of the Iron Curtain of today. The other part is the story of new measures and devices which build a new Iron Curtain, while the old one is being dismantled. First is the measure which widens the Iron Curtain to a 10-kilometer zone along the border. When a Hungarian wants to approach the Western border, he has to cross a border zone of 35 kilometers deep. In that zone everybody who is traveling has to be checked. The policeman calls the starting place and the ultimate goal of a traveler by phone and inquired about him and his traveling. After this zone he has to cross the second zone, 14.5 kilometers broad. Everybody entering the second border zone has to have a travel permit. The travel permit contains the date of birth, mother's name, profession, permanent residence, personal identification, description, height, build, color, distinguishing marks, goal of travel and the validity of the document-- from-to. If a permanent resident of this zone is becoming unreliable, the Communist authorities deport him from his place.
7. "The third zone is 450 meters wide along the border. This zone is filled with tipping apparatuses, which are constructed from wires and are connected to signal rockets. There are watchtowers too. Persons who dash into such tipping apparatuses have to stop, because the guards are permitted to shoot a person who is running. There is a new Iron Curtain trap in this third border zone-- the cobweb, made from fine wire. The diameter of such an Iron Curtain cobweb is 200 meters. In the center of this fine wire cobweb is a little box with telltale lamps which show where the refugee is coming into the fine wire-web without him even suspecting it. Until now [mid-Oct 56] the refugees have been able to see the patrols, but with this new device the guard is sitting hidden beside the box of telltale lamps like a spider in the center of the web-- and waits for his prey.
8. "The fourth zone is 50 meters wide. To enter it is strictly forbidden. Everybody who is found in this zone is shot without warning.
9. "The Hungarian government promised the dismantling of the Iron Curtain at the beginning of May [1956]. The Communist Foreign Minister of Hungary gave an interview to the Vienna press on the 16th of September [1956]. Nearly a half a year has elapsed since the beginning of May and yet the dismantling is not finished.
10. "And so the rebuilding of a new Iron Curtain continues, of which a story will be written with blood and agony shed and there will be suffering for freedom along the old and new Iron Curtain equally."

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